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tion of her own naval power by trying to crush that of France and Russia. We have sometimes thought that unless England abandons the folly and wickedness of continually increasing her war fleet that speedy destruction may come to her sea power, in some unlooked-for way, from the hand of the Lord Almighty whose pacific purposes she is constantly thwarting by her present irrational course. She is intelligent enough to know better. Her guilt is correspondingly great. If it be true, as she is well aware, that "all those who take the sword shall perish with the sword," it is certain to come to pass in some way that her great fleet of war-ships will be broken in pieces and swept from the ocean, possibly by the very fleets which she is forcing into existence by her own naval extension. We do not believe, however, that she will be so foolish as to precipitate her own destruction by deliberately attacking the fleets of France and Russia, nor do we believe that the latter are deliberately planning to sweep the English fleet from the sea as an initiatory step towards proceeding to divide up Europe and Asia between them.

There are tremendous forces at work in Europe which every year make the great war less and less certain to come, unless precipitated by some event entirely out of the range of calculation. Of these forces Mr. Hobson and the men of like craft seem to have no knowledge. They are so busy listening to the metallic hammer-ring heard in the construction of war vessels that they have no ear left for the hammer-sounds of those other workmen,—religious, social, philanthropic, economic, philosophic, literary and industrial, who are building up for the nations of Europe vessels of defence more powerful than ever plowed the seas. It would be well for Constructor Hobson to put his ear to Europe and listen awhile to these other sounds before he prophesies again so confidently the exact date and manner of the great conflict.

EX-SENATOR WILSON OF IOWA.

One of the truest and noblest of the friends of international peace passed away when death took HON. JAMES F. WILSON, late United States Senator for Iowa. No public man Iowa ever had surpassed him as a great constitutional lawyer. Some learned men condemned the principle of his statute against the sale in States under prohibition of liquors in original packages from other States; but the Supreme Court changed its ground and sustained him. In the United States Senate he was a leading member of the Committees on revision of laws and on the judiciary. No one was more influential in reconstruction measures after the rebellion than Senator Wilson, and he was chairman of the most important committee through six years of that period. He was a pillar of strength to the administration of President Lincoln. When General Grant became President he asked him to take the seals of State

three several times. The constitution and laws of the State of Iowa show many marks of his forming hand. But he never forgot the higher claims of humanity in the achievements of the lawyer and the statesman. More than once he retired from the councils of the nation to fulfil private duties, but his allegiance to liberty and peace and the principles of good government and order suffered no intermission. Coming to his great public influence and power and our foremost statesman by native vigor, industry and loyalty to the right, he never faltered in his forceful words and wise and timely action for the masses of humanity. His regards and counsels were never limited to his own native land. He never forgot his duty to friends, the home community, his countrymen, or his fellows of the human race. Had he consented to administer our foreign affairs, the agency of the State Department in sustaining and extending peace among the nations would have been pre-eminent. In his personal character, he was a modest, balanced, consistent man, of high and sustained intellectual tone, and predominantly controlled by his moral faculties and supreme regard for right. The country never lost a truer man.

GEO. F. MAGOUN.

GRINNELL, IOWA.

DEATH OF SECRETARY GRESHAM.

On the morning of the 28th of May, after an illness of four weeks which baffled the skill of his physicians, Walter Quinton Gresham, Secretary of State of the United States, passed away.

It is not within the province of this journal to review his long and varied political career, with its difficulties, disappointments and changes of party affiliation, nor to pronounce judgment upon the causes or the character of his supposed change of principles. That has already been done pro and con by all the political journals in the land. But his career in the Secretaryship of State falls properly within the scope of our discussions.

When the seals of State were placed in his power, the Department, as is well known, already had on its hands questions of great delicacy and difficulty, requiring wisdom, tact and patience in their adjustment. On some of these questions the political parties of the country were not merely divided but violently opposed to each other. The circumstances, therefore, under which Mr. Gresham entered the Secretaryship made it certain not only that his course would be closely watched but that it would be severely criticised. In addition to these questions many others of a perplexing character have come up since he took the office. At but few periods in our history has the State Department had more troublesome or more numerous problems to deal with, and no Secretary of State has ever had greater or more persistent abuse heaped upon him while trying to deal with the questions before him. We have watched his course with great attentiveness,

and, leaving all questions of politics aside, we do not hesitate to say after making due allowance for his errors, that his administration of the office has been on the whole wise, dignified, thoroughly patriotic and eminently successful. He gave himself unstintedly to the duties of his office, and paid little attention to the virulent abuse heaped upon him often by those who at the time knew little of the questions at issue and less about the manner in which he was conducting them.

A successful Secretary of State, as our government is constituted, must do two things; he must firmly maintain the rights and dignity of his own country and conduct our international relations in fairness towards other nations and in a manner which will keep us out of war if possible, Secretary Gresham did both. He so handled every subject with which he had to deal that our country maintained her dignity and honor before the world, and, which was a greater triumph still, he so managed these matters that peace was preserved between the United States and all other peoples.

It is almost certain that if an "intense American" of the Jingo type had been at the head of the State Department during the exciting times of the past two years we should have had more than one expensive and dishonorable war on our hands. It is greatly to the late Secretary's credit that he saw the higher honor and greater credit than would come to the United States by steadily adhering to her long-established pacific, neutral and non-aggressive policy in her foreign dealings, and that he had the good sense and the patience to pursue this policy, in spite of the exasperating pressure put upon him by narrow and unsympathetic and often surprisingly ignorant newspaper critics. If the standard of success in the State Department be the honorable and peaceful solution of all the questions coming before it, then Secretary Gresham was an eminently successful Secretary of State. We wish he could have lived longer. There is ground for believing that he was seriously meditating upon the great problem of a permanent arbitration treaty with Great Britain, which had more than once been laid before him, and that when the numerous problems with which he had to deal should have been off his hands, he was intending to proceed to the negotiation of such a treaty. We see no reason why Mr. Gresham should not be ranked among the best Secretaries of State which we have had.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We are glad to be able to give our readers so full a report of the Annual Business meeting and the Special Public Meeting of the American Peace Society. It is impossible to put into type the admirable spirit of the Public Meeting and the interesting and impressive manner in which all of the addresses were given.

That our readers may see what can be said on both sides of the question of the neutralization of Hawaii we give on another page an editorial from the *New York Sun* as well as one from the *Springfield Republican*.

The Spring meeting of the International Peace Bureau took place at Berne on the 4th and 5th of May. A financial statement was given showing the receipts and expenses of the Bureau since August last. The Bureau is in urgent need of funds for the prosecution of its work. The president, Mr. Fredrik Bajer of Denmark, was instructed to prepare a form of subscription to be sent out to the friends of peace for the regular collection of funds for the work of the Bureau. It was decided to ask the coming Peace Congress at Luxemburg to authorize the Bureau to take the initiative in a pressing appeal for concord in case of any threatened war. The Bureau is to send out a circular to the peace societies calling their attention to certain works suitable for use in peace instruction in the schools. It was decided that the coming Peace Congress at Luxemburg should be held four or five days after the Interparliamentary Conference which is to open at Brussels somewhere between the 12th and 19th of August. The principal subjects to come before the Luxemburg Congress are

1. Agitation in favor of a truce of armaments.
2. Comparison of the various schemes which have been proposed for the organization of international arbitration.
3. The Co-operation of workingmen with the Peace Societies and Peace Congresses.
4. The transformation of armies into instruments of production.
5. Manner of representation in future Congresses.
6. A commission to study the subject of a language of unity.

This list of subjects is to be transmitted to the peace societies for their suggestions as to further topics.

Mr. Albert K. Smiley of Mohonk Lake, N. Y., who has contributed so much to the advancement of the interests of the Indian by the Indian Conferences which he has held at Mohonk for the last twelve years, is to inaugurate on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of this June a similar series of conferences to influence public sentiment in favor of international arbitration. The first conference promises to be a very important one and will probably call together the largest and most intelligent body of peace men and women which ever met in this country. We hope to give our readers a good account of the conference in our July issue.

The lady peace workers of England have addressed to their sisters in France a letter in which they express their sincere desire that France and England may live in peace